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RF/NE
EWilliam
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19.(Twice Amended) An *in vitro* method of directing somatic differentiation of undifferentiated, pluripotent human embryonic stem cells, wherein said undifferentiated, pluripotent human embryonic stem cells are prepared by a process comprising:

obtaining an *in vitro* fertilized human embryo and growing said embryo to a blastocyst stage of development;

removing inner cells mass (ICM) cells from said embryo;

culturing said ICM cells under conditions which do not induce extraembryonic differentiation and cell death and promote proliferation of undifferentiated stem cells; and

recovering stem cells;

said method comprising growing said stem cells under culture conditions that induce somatic differentiation, wherein said conditions do not permit continued stem cell renewal but do not kill stem cells or induce their unidirectional differentiation into extraembryonic lineages.

Please amend claim 37 as follows:

37.(Amended) An *in vitro* method of directing somatic differentiation of undifferentiated, pluripotent human embryonic stem cells, wherein said undifferentiated, pluripotent human embryonic stem cells are prepared by a process comprising:

obtaining an *in vitro* fertilized human embryo and growing the embryo to a blastocyst stage of development;

removing inner cell mass (ICM) cells from the embryo;

culturing ICM cells on a fibroblast feeder layer to obtain proliferation of undifferentiated stem cells; and